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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT

for the year 1971



BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,  
"Eastlands",  
London Road,  
Basingstoke.

October, 1972.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 1971 as directed by the Public Health Officers Regulations.

Vital Statistics - The increase in population for the year was 930 - the highest annual increase since I took up the appointment as your Medical Officer of Health. The previous highest annual increase was less than 700. The pattern of this increase is similar to that seen during previous years - being due to immigration - as the number of births only exceeded deaths by 40. 1971 was the first year since 1965 that the number of births exceeded the number of deaths.

Mortality - The migration of a younger population into the district is also illustrated in the ages at which deaths occur. During the first two years 56% of all deaths occurred over the age of 75 years. In 1971, the number of deaths in this particular age group accounts for less than 51%.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances - The main points of this section of my report are covered in the section prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector, to whom it is my pleasant duty once again to record my thanks for his contribution.

I should also like to express my thanks to the Council and staff of the Public Health Department, especially Mr. Box and Mr. Ross, the Chief and Deputy Chief Public Health Inspectors for all their help during 1971.

Yours faithfully,

T.E. ROBERTS  
Medical Officer of Health



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## STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area .....	74,390 acres
Population - Registrar General's Estimate Mid.1971 .....	23,580
Number of inhabited houses .....	6,906
Rateable Value (as at 31st March, 1972) .....	£864.843
Product of penny rate (as at 31st March, 1972) .....	£8.318

## VITAL STATISTICS

	1971	1970	1969
Live births .....	365	362	322
Live birth rate per 1,000 population .....	15.5	16.0	16.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .	6.0	5.5	8.0
Stillbirths .....	4	1	6
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths .....	11.0	3.0	18.0
Total live and stillbirths .....	369	363	328
Infant deaths .....	6	11	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			
Total .....	16.0	30.0	16.0
Legitimate .....	18.0	32.0	13.0
Neonatal (first 4 weeks) rate per 1,000 live births ....	14.0	28.0	12.0
Early neonatal rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) .	14.0	25.0	12.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week) .	24.0	28.0	30.0
Maternal deaths (including abortion) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ,	Nil	Nil	Nil
Comparability factors .....(births).	1.10	1.10	1.10
(deaths).	0.55	0.55	0.53

## BIRTHS

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Live Births	Legitimate .....	165	177	342	342	297
	Illegitimate .....	13	10	23	20	25
Birth rate per 1,000 population (corrected)				17.1	17.6	16.8
Average for England and Wales .....				16.0	16.0	16.3

## DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Deaths from all causes .....	147	168	315	356	363
Death rate per 1,000 population .....			13.4	15.7	16.3
Death rate per 1,000 (corrected) .....			7.4	8.6	8.6
Average for England and Wales .....			11.6	11.7	11.9



# CAUSE OF INFANT DEATHS

	<u>Under 1 week</u>	<u>1 - 4 weeks</u>	<u>1 - 12 months</u>
Prematurity .....	5	0	0
Pneumonia .....	0	0	1

## STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Legitimate .....	1	3	4	1	6
Illegitimate .....	0	0	0	0	0

## ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	3	3	6
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine .....	6	6	12
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	6	2	8
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	-	8	8
B19(10)	Leukaemia .....	2	-	2
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms .....	7	8	15
B21	Diabetes Mellitus .....	1	2	3
B23	Anaemias .....	-	1	1
B46(3)	Mental Disorders .....	1	3	4
B46(4)	Mutiple Sclerosis .....	-	1	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease .....	1	2	3
B27	Hypertensive Disease .....	6	2	8
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease .....	35	37	72
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease .....	8	17	25
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease .....	15	17	32
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	12	11	23
B32	Pneumonia .....	20	25	45
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema .....	10	2	12
B33(2)	Asthma .....	1	-	1
B46(7)	Other Disease of Respiratory System .....	2	1	3
B34	Peptic Ulcer .....	1	-	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia .....	1	2	3
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	-	1	1
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System .....	1	3	4
B46(10)	Diseases of Skin, subcutaneous tissue .....	-	1	1
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System .....	-	1	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies .....	1	-	1
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult labour etc., .....	-	2	2
B41	Other complications of Pregnancy etc., .....	-	2	2
B44	Other causes of Perinatal Mortality .....	2	-	2
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined conditions .....	-	1	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	2	1	3
BE48	All Other Accidents .....	2	4	6
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System .....	1	2	3





# EPIDEMIOLOGY

## Notification of Diseases

	1971	1970	1969	1968
Measles .....	44	36	37	31
Scarlet Fever .....	3	1	1	-
Whooping Cough .....	3	3	1	2
Dysentery .....	-	4	1	-
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary .....	2	3	2	6
Salmonella Typhimurium .....	2	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis .....	4	1	-	2
Food Poisoning .....	-	1	-	-
	58	50	42	41

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

### a) SMALLPOX

Age	Primary				Re-Vaccination			
	1971	1970	1969	1968	1971	1970	1969	1968
1 year	10	14	33	199	-	-	-	-
2 - 4 years	13	63	84	68	10	7	-	1
5 - 15 years	9	19	12	25	35	21	23	54
TOTAL	32	96	129	292	45	28	23	55

### b) DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Course		1971	1970	1969
Primary	General Practitioners Local Authority Doctors	76) 73) 149	144	195
Booster	General Practitioners Local Authority Doctors	179) 379) 558	610	475

### c) MEASLES

	1971			1970		
	1 year	2-4yr	5-15yr	1 year	2-4yr	5-15yr
General Practitioners	31	13	14	-	79	38
Local Authority Doctors	-	3	1	-	44	13
TOTAL	31	16	15	-	123	51



d) POLIOMYELITIS

		1971	1970	1969
Primary	General Practitioners	61 )	228	232
	Local Authority Doctors	10 )		
Booster	General Practitioners	59 )	332	334
	Local Authority Doctors	150 )		

HOME HELP SERVICE

Applications									Home Helps on		
Total Received & Investigated			Assisted			Advance Bookings			Register 30/12/71		
1971	1970	1969	1971	1970	1969	1971	1970	1969	1971	1970	1969
92	76	71	54	43	36	5	5	1	28	26	25

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE - Health Visiting

The Health Visitor is informed of all births to mothers normally resident in the Rural District whether they occur inside or outside the rural boundary. They assist the mother and offer advice on all matters regarding immunisation and feeding, working at all times in close liaison with the family doctor to enable the child to receive the greatest benefit.

During the year, the Child Health Clinic at Pamber ceased to operate. On the last day of the year, 11 Child Welfare Clinics were operating in the Rural District.

<u>No. of Children attending born in</u>			<u>Total No. of</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1966-69</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Attendances</u>
217	236	314	767	4,287

OLD PEOPLES' WELFARE - (Voluntary and Statutory)

Both the statutory and voluntary welfare services work individually and co-operate when necessary to bring the greatest benefit to the elderly people of the District. This service is administered centrally by the Hampshire Council of Social Services from Winchester.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### HOUSING

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 is as follows:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Private .....	2,083	146	178	219
Council .....	929	33	51	14

### FOOD SUPPLIES

A few notifications of salmonella and brucella in milk were received from the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Officers' and investigated. In all cases the milk derived from the herds is pasteurised.

Complaints received from ratepayers indicate that the general public are demanding a high standard in the quality of food.

### MAIN DRAINAGE

Drainage work on the provision of sewers in Bramley, Cliddesden and Pamber Heath continue and the Monk Sherborne scheme was completed. The proposed main drainage scheme for the north-west part of the district receives my full support.

### WATER

The sources supplying the Rural district are all underground. All are subject to treatment, and frequent and regular examination has shown that the processes are continually effective in producing a water suitable for public supply purposes.

Samples of raw and treated waters are examined bacteriologically weekly and the results of the treated waters being forwarded to the Council, and while it would be very difficult to provide figures applicable only to the Rural district, the total number of bacteriological examinations for 1971, were as follows:-

	<u>Number Tested</u>	<u>% Highly Satisfactory</u>
Raw waters before treatment	1,770	
Treated waters at Head Works	1,745	99.89
	<hr/> 3,515	

Service Reservoirs are also examined, and lengths of new main are subject to chlorination and bacteriological examination before use for supply purposes.



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1971

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-fourth annual report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Department.

Although more of your Officers' time was devoted to the improvement of houses and to the cleansing services, and with associated work study problems, the general routine work of maintaining the environmental health standards throughout the district continued.

Great progress has been made in built-up areas throughout the country in reducing smoke pollution. Regrettably, the same can no longer be applied to rural districts where it is now customary for farmers to pollute the atmosphere annually, when surplus straw and stubble are burnt in fields after crops are harvested. Palls of black smoke often contaminate air at breathing level, permeate country properties and create hazards to traffic. The benefits to agriculture derived from this objectionable practice are minimal in comparison to the nuisance and inconvenience frequently caused to the rural community at large.

My thanks are due to the staff in the Public Health Department for their ready support and full co-operation in all matters.

P.C. BOX  
Chief Public Health Inspector

October, 1972





## FOOD PREMISES

Inspections regarding food and food premises were as follows :-

	<u>No. in District</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
General Provision Shops .....	50	62
Butchers' Shops .....	5	12
Inns and Off Licences .....	42	31
Restaurants, Cafes, etc., .....	7	26
Bakehouses .....	2	2
Registered Ice Cream Premises .....	64	51
Registered Sausage Manufacturers .....	4	6
Hospitals and Old Peoples Homes .....	4	14
Premises Licensed for Sale of Milk ...	20	41
Schools .....	20	11
Clubs .....	11	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	229	264
	<hr/>	<hr/>

It was again found difficult to maintain routine inspections of food premises. This is to be regretted as the tendency is for part-time assistants to be employed and, as a result, frequent visits are desirable to maintain contact.

The trend towards self service in small shops continued. It is not always appreciated that with self service it becomes increasingly important to exercise careful stock rotation. In spite of assurances given by large wholesalers, occasions still arise where delivery men offer to supply perishable foods on a "sale or return" basis. As the retailer is often unaware of the meaning of the coding displayed on the goods he can be exploited by an unscrupulous salesman.

## MILK SAMPLING

41 samples of pasteurised milk were taken and all were found to be satisfactory.

## ICE CREAM SAMPLING

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district.

14 samples were taken from registered premises selling prepacked ice cream and from travelling vendors. All were satisfactory.



## HOUSING ACTS

### Housing Re-Survey

The re-survey of older lower rated houses continued and by the end of the year 896 dwellings in 14 villages had been inspected. Details are as follows :-

No. of houses re-surveyed .....	896
Houses reasonably fit and with all amenities .....	624
Houses lacking amenities but capable of improvement .....	222
Houses found to be unfit .....	50

The total of 50 unfit houses has been reduced to 33 since the survey commenced, the remainder having been demolished or improved and rendered fit for habitation. Of those remaining, 11 are unoccupied and some of these sites will eventually be redeveloped. 22 are occupied by elderly tenants who show little enthusiasm in having their houses fully improved.

### Improvement and Standard Grants

During the year a further 47 improvement grants were approved and 3 applications were refused. 12 standard grants were approved. These grants total £41,360. and continue to serve their main purpose of preserving the stock and raising the standard of older property in villages.

Publicity in the press and by radio has increased considerably the number of enquiries being received regarding grants available for the improvement of property and your Officers devoted a considerable proportion of their time to this work. Many applications now relate to dwellings constructed 30 - 40 years ago which remain structurally sound and well maintained, but which are poorly planned, lack adequate kitchen space and equipment and have inadequate space heating. In the autumn the Department of the Environment encouraged Local Authorities to exercise discretion more freely in approving grants and the Council has fully adopted this policy. In several instances, second grants have been approved in respect of houses improved during the 1950's, as it is realised that since then general housing standards have risen considerably. Grants are approved for the improvement of dwellings to Parker Morris standards.

### Slum Clearance

During the year :-

- 10 houses were demolished
- 3 houses awaited demolition
- 6 houses became subject to owners' formal undertakings
- 6 houses subject to owners' formal undertakings were improved and rendered fit for habitation.

### Housing Act, 1969 - Qualification Certificates

16 applications for Qualification Certificates were received, 4 were withdrawn at a later date, but the remaining 12 were granted.



Refuse and Salvage Collection

Weekly paper sack refuse collections from the rear of private households continued throughout the year and very few complaints were received from ratepayers. These collections were made with standard Bedford open lorries which prove much less costly to run and maintain than conventional refuse vehicles. It became uneconomical to salvage waste paper due to several causes, and it has now been discontinued. Unfortunately, the baling press and shed were severely damaged by a fire in the early spring.

A works study incentive bonus scheme was introduced during June, designed to eliminate overtime working and reduce mileage, but using existing manpower and vehicles. Employees found they could earn higher wages without overtime working and absenteeism decreased. Its main effect on management was an increased involvement and time spent on the service. Unfortunately, some of the goodwill existing before the scheme was introduced has disappeared. The scheme was still in its trial period at the end of the year as certain details were unacceptable to the employees, and the Council were disappointed that the initial projected savings had not been achieved. It was agreed that it should be amended and reviewed before its final form could be accepted by both sides.

Refuse Disposal

All types of domestic refuse were disposed of by incineration at the Borough Council's destructor at Wildmoor.

Marnel Dell tip remained in use for the reception of incombustible materials, bulky household articles and incinerator ash. The useful life of this tip is now very limited.

Cesspool Emptying Service

The anticipated reduction in calls made upon this service due to properties being connected to main drainage did not materialise and delays in executing orders were frequent and more prolonged than normal. This position was aggravated upon the introduction of the refuse collection incentive bonus scheme when, to enable that service to be adequately works-studied, any undermanning was borne by the cesspool emptying service. On many occasions sufficient labour was not available to operate all vehicles. During the year most of the effluent was discharged into sewers, but use was also made of arable land for this purpose.

Charges for this work remained unaltered and are as follows :-

1st and 2nd loads .....	£2. 00p. each
3rd, 4th and 5th loads .....	£1. 55p. each
6th/10th loads .....	75p. each
11th load .....	50p.
12th and subsequent loads .....	25p. each

Lay-Bys

The Council by arrangement with the County Council continue a regular clearance of litter from lay-bys. Those on roads near the end of the M.3 motorway were fully used by day and frequently at night by caravanners on holiday. The adjoining land showed evidence of considerable fouling, paper sack refuse holders were frequently damaged and their sacks removed. The County Council are proceeding with the provision of mobile toilets at Popham and when these are available the inadequate facilities at the roadside cafe need no longer be made available to the general public.

Coronation Road Depot

The permanent appointment of a qualified vehicle fitter became necessary to ensure that the Council's vehicles conform to more stringent Plating and Testing requirements of the Road Traffic Acts. Since this appointment, vehicles are repaired and maintained more quickly and efficiently and at considerably less cost.





## PEST CONTROL

There was no further evidence to suggest that warfarin resistance was being developed in rats or mice in the area and again it was noted the number of infestations of mice remained at about the same level.

Conditions on farms continue to improve as old buildings are replaced and improvements to existing buildings are made, but the degree of control on farms varies considerably and the small amounts of bait laid by some farmers tends to encourage, rather than eradicate infestations.

A considerable number of wasp nests were disposed of during summer months.

## CARAVANS AND CARAVAN SITES

The Council's caravan site at Pamber Heath remained fully occupied throughout the year. Very few changes of tenancy occurred and a large number of applicants remain on the waiting list. One standing has been allocated to the County Welfare Department for emergency cases.

The size of residential caravans continues to grow and many are now as large as small bungalows. Few, if any, could be towed on the road. Nevertheless, there is still a tendency to cram too much in the space available, and childrens' bedrooms occupying a floor space of 6' x 4' and containing a double bunk are not uncommon. The means of ventilating bedrooms in many caravans, too, leaves much to be desired.

However, as dwellings they are much improved on the hardboard creation of a few years ago and in times of increasing land values and building costs, they are playing an increasingly important part in providing housing accommodation.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There was a small increase in the number of registered premises due to the construction of warehouses in the light industrial area adjoining the town.

The number of accidents reported was small. They were mostly concerned with slips and falls which could usually have been avoided with a little more care. There were no serious injuries.

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of people employed on a part-time basis and a corresponding decrease in the number employed full time. Both employers and employees claim advantages from part-time working.

## CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Few nuisances of a domestic nature were reported, but the odour of oil from central heating systems on many of the new housing estates came in for some criticism. A good deal of pollution of the atmosphere occurred as a result of smoking bonfires, burning scrub (often with the help of vast numbers of old tyres) and burning of stubble on fields.

## NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Minor complaints mainly regarding barking dogs and car repairs, were resolved by persuasion.

Again, a car race meeting near a village produced complaints, but no further meetings are to be held on the site in question.







